

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-15 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-15 are rejected.

Claims 1-15 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Toyouchi. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Amended claims 1, 8, and 15 recite security information mediation occurring between a first terminal (at an information contributor) and a second terminal (at an information recipient). In the case of claim 1, for example, when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the second receiving unit receives payment information on an information presentation fee to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the second registering unit registers the payment information together with the reply information, and the second transfer unit transfers the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

The current amendments to the claims are supported at least by Figures 4 and 8 and the corresponding portions of the specification. The claim amendments in particular clarify the feature that when the information recipient finds the the security information has usefulness, the payment information together with the reply information is transferred to the first terminal at the information contributor. See page 21, line 22 to page 23, line 24 of the specification. Accordingly, the user is the information contributor, and the user receives the information presentation fee when the information is useful to the information recipient.

Toyouchi discusses a service providing system where information acquiring computers are connected to information providing computers via a service providing computer. The service

providing computer receives a request from the information acquiring computer, and determines a sort of information to be provided with a user, based upon a quality of the request content, individual information, and historical information of the user. "A quality of a request (by the user)" is defined as "an attribute of a service requested (by the end user)" (paragraph 0091). The information obtained from the request result is integrated by the service computer and transmitted to the information acquiring computer (Abstract).

Therefore, claims 1, 8, and 15 are distinguishable over Toyouchi.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are also distinguishable from Toyouchi because, as shown in paragraph 0091 of Toyouchi, the user requests a service to the service providing computer, and makes a payment for the service. However, the payment by the user is made regardless of usefulness; there is no usefulness judgment mentioned or suggested.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 15 is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed patentable due at least to their dependence from allowable independent claims. These claims are also patentable due to their recitation of independently distinguishing features. For example, claim 5 recites that the "security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second receiving unit receives correction information as measure for the security information of which usefulness is shown, and said second transfer unit transfers the correction information to the first terminal". This feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

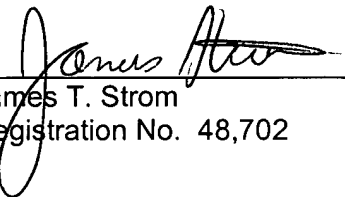
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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